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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00550 311334Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
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O R 311135Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4770
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USUN NEW YORK 516

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0550

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, SU, SA, SO
SUBJ: SUDANESE EMBASSY VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS AFTER TAIZ

SUMMARY. CHARGE MET WITH SUDANESE AMBASSADOR ISAM EL-DIN HASSAN AND MILITARY ATTACHE COL. MUSAID EL-NUWERI AHMED (PROTECT MARCH 31 TO DISCUSS RECENT TAIZ QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT MEETING AND SUDANESE VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS AFTER TAIZ. MUSAID IS BELIEVED BE PARTICULARLY GOOD SOURCE BECAUSE HE ACCOMPANIED SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI FROM MOGADISCIO TO TAIZ AND WENT ON TO JIDDA WITH FOREIGN
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MINISTER MANSOUR KHALED FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH SAG OFFICIALS AFTER TAIZ. BOTH WERE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH RESULTS TAIZ MEETING, WHICH THEY SAID WERE ALL NIMEIRI HAD HOPED FOR, AND THEY WERE CONVINCED INTER-ARAB STEPS WERE NOW UNDERWAY THAT WOULD FURTHER LOOSEN GSDR'S DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT TAIZ, ACCORDING AMBASSADOR, SOMALI PRESIDENT MOHAMED

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SIAD BARRE TOLD NIMEIRI THAT HE WAS FIRST AND FOREMOST A "NATIONALIST" AND SPOKE "BITTERLY" AGAINST SOVIETS' GROWING INVOLVEMENT WITH ETHIOPIAN PROVISION MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG). SIAD FREELY ADMITTED THAT GSDR ALLOWED SOVIETS ACCESS TO SOMALI MILITARY FACILITIES. BUT HE EMPHASIZED "AGAIN AND AGAIN" THAT GSDR WAS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THESE FACILITIES. GSDR HAD MADE NO SECRET MILITARY COMMITMENTS TO SOVIETS, HE AVERRED, AND COULD DISPENSE WITH SOVIETS ANY TIME IT CLOSE. SIAD ALSO REPORTEDLY WARNED NIMEIRI THAT ONCE IN CONTROL OF ETHIOPIA, SOVIETS WOULD REVIVE PROJECT TO DAM THE BLUE NILE AND THUS GAIN STRANGLEHOLD OVER SUDAN. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS PUZZLED ABOUT SIAD'S REASON FOR WARNING AND SKEPTICAL THAT ANY ONE WOULD GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO ATTACK SUDAN, BUT HE THOUGHT WARNING WAS INTERESTING AS INDICATOR SIAD'S STATE OF MIND WITH RESPECT SOVIETS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER KHALED'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SAG OFFICIALS FOLLOWING TAIZ MEETING REPORTEDLY WERE VERY SATISFACTORY AND SET STAGE FOR NEXT STEPS IN MODERATE ARAB EFFORTS TO WEAN GSDR AWAY FROM SOVIETS. IT WAS DECIDED THAT SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER, PRINCE SAUD, WOULD COME TO MOGADISCIO SHORTLY, OBSTENSIBLY TO INAUGURATE SAUDI-BUILD MOSQUE, BUT IN FACT TO PURSUE NIMEIRI'S OPENING GAMBIT WITH SIAD. AMBASSADOR SAID SAUDIS WOULD OFFER SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GSDR AS INDUCEMENT. (HOW-EVER, HE HAD NOT HEARD FIGURES OF US DOLS 300 MILLION BEFORE). HE SAID SOMALIA MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION OMAR ARTEH GHALIB WENT SECRETLY TO JIDDA TO BE PRESENT AT KHALED/SAG MEETINGS AND, PRESUMABLY, WILL COORDINATE SAUDI'S VISIT TO MOGADISCIO. UPON HIS RETURN TO MOGADISCIO, COLONEL MUSAID SAID HE HAD REPORTED RESULTS OF JIDDA TALKS TO SIAD'S SON-IN-LAW AND HEAD OF SOMALI NATIONAL
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SECURITY SERVICE, BRIG GEN. AHMED SULEIMAN ABDULLE. LATTER REPORTEDLY WAS PLEASED WITH REPORT.

3. SUDANESE CHARACTERIZED SIAD'S TRIP TO TAIZ, ONCE HE HAD OVERCOME INITIAL HESITATION, AS MILESTONE OF SORTS. THEY SAID OPPORTUNITTY TO EXPAND MODERATE ARAB AND OTHER FRIENDLY INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA HAD NEVER BEEN BETTER AND STRONGLY URGED US TO ACT IN SUPPORT ARAB DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. HOWEVER, THEY CAUTIONED AGAINST EXPECTATION OF OVERNIGHT CHANGES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT, WHATEVER IT CHOSE TO DO, US WOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO OFFEND FAMOUS PRIDE OF SOMALIS. DON'T EXPECT PUBLIC BOUQUETS FROM GSDR, THEY SAID. LOOK, INSTEAD, FOR SMALL, PRIVATE INDI-CATIONS OF BIGGER CHANGES TO COME. THEY OFFERED SUDANESE GOOD OFFICES TO SMOOTH US' WAY IN SOMALIA, POINTING OUT THAT SUDANESE CONTACTS AT ALL LEVELS GSDR WERE GOOD AND IMPROVING.

4. COMMENT. SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOGADISCIO, IF IT COMES OFF, COULD BE IMPORTANT STEP IN GSDR'S MOVEMENT AWAY FROM SOVIETS. PRESUMABLY, SAG WOULD NOT SEND SOMEONE OF PRINCE SAUD'S

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STATURE AND SIAD WOULD NOT RECEIVE ARCH-ENEMY OF SOVIET INTERESTS
IN SOMALIA UNLESS BOTH SIDES HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD
TOGETHER IN CONCRETE WAY. WE WOULD AGREE WITH SUDANESE, THEN,
THAT EVOLUTION WITHIN GSDR IS MOVING STRONGLY IN DIRECTION
FAVORABLE TO US INTERESTS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, USG SHOULD BEGIN
TO THINK IN TERMS SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH GSDR IN ORDER
BE READY TO STEP IN AT RIGHT TIME AND WITH RIGHT TOOLS.
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**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, SU, SA, SO, (SAUD, PRINCE)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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